



The South India CHURCHMAN

The Magazine of the Church of South India

JANUARY 2001

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I Will Teach You the Way You Should Go! (Ps.32:8)

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2001

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

JANUARY 2001

When I want to move my hand, it moves. I don't have to stop and think, 'how shall I move it?' It happens. But if I find myself to be a selfish kind of person and want to be unselfish, it doesn't happen. Therefore, something has got to take hold of us from outside.
-(William Temple)

As the earth can produce nothing unless it is fertilised by the sun, so we can do nothing without the grace of God. *-(St. John Vianney)*

Nothing therefore happens unless the omnipotent wills it to happen; he either permits it to happen or he brings it about himself.
-(St. Augustine of Hippo)

God's will is as much in sickness as in health. *-(St. Francis de Sales)*

Looking back from this my seventieth year, it seems to me that every card in my working life has been dealt to me in such a manner that I had but to play it as it came. *-(Rudyard Kipling)*

A possibility is a hint from God. *(Soren Kierkegaard)*

That which is often asked of God, is not so much his will and way, as his approval of our way.
-(S.F. Smiley)

The present moment is the only moment in which any kind of action is possible. If I want to do the will of God, I must recognise that the divine will is always something I must do now - I cannot receive now what God will offer me tomorrow. But I can receive now what he is offering me now. And each moment God is offering me some grace (gift) for my acceptance or some command for my obedience. *-(N. Ward)*

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THE SOUTH INDIA CHURCHMAN

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January, 2001

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Looking Ahead!

We are at the threshold of not just yet another new year but of a new century as well and for a full measure, a new millennium. It calls for not only stock taking but also looking ahead. Stock taking enables us to know where we are and at what point we have reached and looking ahead helps us to plan and move forward purposefully and in the right direction.

CSI is no longer a fledgling church. It has grown in numbers, maturity and materially. Though we can not take full credit for this, as atleast the major share of it is the legacy we have inherited from our forefathers, our partners in mission, yet we can still lay a little claim for this growth. What was a small sapling has taken deep roots now and spread its thick and luxuriant foliage towards the sky. Two main traditions, episcopal and non-episcopal, have merged not without hiccups here and there but by and large the transition has been smooth and orderly. The foundations have been strong - we would do well to read some of the essays written by the late bishop Leslie Newbigin in defence of this union, a good sample in apologetics - and that to a large extent explains the health and well being of the church now.

But there can be no room for any complacency here for it is the very nature of the dynamics of society that it is in a state of flux and not static. The *milieu* in which the fledgling church found itself say 50 years ago is not the same anymore and there has been so much of change in all spheres. That calls for *revisioning, restructuring, re-designing, reorienting and recasting* in order to be relevant and responsive to the changing situations without which the church faces the unpleasant prospect of becoming irrelevant and obsolete.

As we look to the future one thing becomes very clear: CSI has to be much more open to change and challenges and take the initiative and courage *to experiment, reform and go in for radical and bold measures* to make it responsive to the needs of the people and the demands of the times.

In the socio-political, cultural spheres there are forces at work which try to perpetuate and reinforce the age old hierarchical oppressive structures that divide people and keep them subjugated; then there are the fundamentalist, obscurantist forces that try to impose a homogenous religious culture and confuse religious identity with national identity, in the process striking at very root of the diversity of our culture and secular fabric of our society; and at the political level the forces of economic liberalization, globalization, market economy and vote bank

A View From the Pew

politics that view people as objects to be manipulated rather than as subjects to be treated with dignity are at play and then the usual heady mix of violence, exploitation, organised terrorism and so many other variations of life-negating forces. It is against this background that the church has to make its presence felt and carry on the ministry and incarnate itself in the midst of people.

Great leaders have exercised their minds on the role and relevance of episcopacy in our church. The time has come for the church to rethink and recast the image of episcopacy as an institution. In this context the motto of the Pastoral Aid department of the synod comes to mind 'Servants of the servant Lord, and the title one of the medieval popes claimed for himself *Servus Servorum Dei*; (*Servant of the servants of God*); it sounds good on paper and it should be formidable in practice.

Gender justice and equal opportunities have to be pursued and implemented with greater seriousness; the

church has to create a climate conducive for the emergence of great women leaders like Miriam, Deborah and Esther in our midst.

Electoral reforms are long overdue to make sure that more importance is given to issues and mission of the church. There is an urgency for the church to realize that the mission of the church is much more important than power, politics and egos.

Litigation has become the curse and shame of the church. To wish it away is like the proverbial ostrich but on a pragmatic level we need to analyse the cause of it and do everything possible to see that effective means of *doing justice* are constitutionally guaranteed and implemented so that automatically the need for litigation disappears.

The church has to dream dreams and see visions. In this context ministerial formation assumes very great significance. It is heartening to note that new methods and approaches and innovations are experimented in TTS, Madurai and in other seminaries as well, with a view to helping the future pastors develop a holistic understanding of their ministry.

There has to be a thorough re-evaluation of the goals of our institutions also. How often have we all felt sick of the plots in our films and TV shows where educated youngsters are shown taking to extremism or self-destructive paths just because they don't get jobs! Do we have to turn out only jobseekers and not job providers, a point tellingly brought out by Mr. Gurumurthy in his '*Point of View*' in the New Indian Express, December 28, 2000. We may discount his ideological moorings but the point he has raised is valid and has to be taken note of by all our heads of institutions. We are living through exciting times under challenging circumstances. May the Lord equip us for the task before us. Happy New Year in the 21st century.

A Word from the General Secretary

S. Dyvasiradam

After the accidental exit of two great leaders of the Indian Christian family, archbishop Alan de Lastic, president of the CBCI, and bishop Vinod Peter, the Moderator of the CNI also the president of the NCCI, the christian church in India began to face not only the trauma but also the irreparable loss at the leadership level. At a time when the christian church in India has entered into the new millennium and a new century full of hopes, their sudden exit makes us search for alternate voices and directions for mutual strength and solidarity. In this context it is with gratitude and joy I recall the leadership offered to our faith community by the late bishop V.S. Azariah of Dornakal whose 125th birth anniversary is celebrated with thanksgiving and much rejoicing.

On the other hand, the nation itself has, all of a sudden, found the 'unmasking' of the 'enigmatic' mask hitherto covering the face of the national leadership. The people of the nation are terribly let down by this conniving attitude of a particular dominating section threatening the unity, liberty and fraternity within the plurality of this anicent nation, thus making religion as a measuring rod for a 'peaceful' survival in our country.

Laskar-e-Taiba, Hizbul Mujahideen have raised their ugly heads again to establish their iron grip even in the strategic Red Fort. These are clear signs of the vulnerability of the nation's leadership. No doubt we have reasons for pride too!!! When Karnam Mallesleware received a bronze medal at the Sydney olympics represneting one billion people to follow in the foot steps of Leandar Paes who was the lonely star to win the bronze in the last olympics;

when Priyanka Chopra was chosen Miss World to follow the tradition of Sushmita Sen and Ishwarya Rai; when Viswanathan Anand challenged the chess world to become the world champion, our hopes for the new century rose to great heights assuring the whole nation of greater confidence and lots of gifts of potential in store.....

The CCA has received a new



The synod officers at the inaugural Festival concert

leader in the person of Dr.Ahn Jae Wong from the Presbyterian church in Korea to succeed Dr.Felicia Careena one of the surviving ecumenists. The church in India is looking forward to receiving many more ecumenical leaders, leading this church as an alternative community in the larger context of our nation bringing in a different fragrance of unity. It is high time that the theological colleges/seminaries gave challenging orientation recalling the fervour and courage of the bygone generation.

This unity is not to make a church glorious or materially powerful but to make it a more effective channel of God's continuing grace to perform a miracle of human unity. The ancient church must contribute through her *orthodoxy* and the young and reformed church must contribute through *ortho praxis*; that is what

our 'strong' neighbor in faith has been demanding from us.

The biennial CSI - Related Churches meeting will take place during the executive committee meeting to be held from Jan' 8 - 12, 2001 to evaluate and underline the priorities of the CSI in her ministry to the people. Once again the question will be asked before we highlight certain priorities - what degree/amount of relationship and partnerships the richer dioceses have been extending to the ecumenically dependent dioceses which do not have many resources. The litigation and the growing institutions as the bone of contention for such litigation, the lack of stewardship at various levels in spite of lessons that the dirty game of politics have taught us are making a dent in our image and credibility and the new generation is watching at the insincer-

ity, lack of stewardship, mismanagement of resources.

...well, a new century has begun and a historic generation (*kairotic community*) has already entered into a new millennium seeking the signs of new-found vistas trying to mould all the available resources which only reminds us of the journey of the new generation into Canaan, the promised land. On behalf of all the bishops, and the executive committee, the Moderator and other officers of the Synod and directors of the various departments, I wish you all and the members of this faith community of the CSI not only a happy and prosperous New Year but also an exciting and exhilarating century hoping at the same time that we would be able to transform the world with the values of the kingdom. May the good Lord of the generations continue to be the Lord of this our generation!

POWER, PRINCIPLES AND PEOPLE

Rev.D.S.Jeevan Babu B.Com.,B.D.,M.Th.,

Committee membership, acquisition of power by hook or crook, politicizing for the sake of remaining in power, the hegemony of power seem to be ruling the roost in our contemporary church. we have been looking at people, how the powerless are treated by the powerful and how people and sycophants, treat the powerful. Also we have seen how the powerful have crumbled down just like that. Not long ago Alwin Toffler commented on Money, Muscle and the Mind power and said the Mind-power was the most dangerous and exploitative.

M-3 (Money, Muscle and Mind) power seem to be giving status or happiness to people who posses them. They may not be conscious of how they indirectly negate the life in others. Power, as we know, if misused, becomes exploitative in nature. It is observed that dominant christians i.e. those who speak English, those who are in hierarchical placements and those who control finances control those who can not express themselves in the language known to others, dalits, children, women and other ordinary members of the pews.

It is time for the christian community to analyze the power-holders in the community and re-define power and its uses. The powerful people should live for the powerless. Even in christian circles after being elected to some high positions

people in power call themselves ruling party and ignore the others who voted them to such places.

- Is power given to us for our own sake?

- Is power given to us for exploiting others?

- Is power given to us to practise nepotism?

The basic mandate of power is to supply power for others. Power is to share its results with others. Could we consider power as status symbol? Power should be rather seen as additional responsibilities. One should not go after power unless one is conscious of using power for the good of others. The power used for our own promotion would bring destruction into our life. We have seen within our own community that as soon as one occupies a higher post he/she ceases to be good and gentle and suddenly be becomes authoritative. It is not true? Why does it happen? As someone said "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Is there something wrong with the power or user of the power?

Principles

Many people are deprived of justice on the basis of certain age-old principles, rules and regulations. A careful analysis of these rules and principles would reveal to us that these have come up in a particular context for particular issue.

These contexts and issues may not be the same today. Therefore these principles and rules need not be seen to be relevant for today and eternity.

When you look at the administration at the christian circles and in many other places, people flout the rules for their own convenience. When it comes to helping others they quote the same rules or principles and do lot of injustice to others. Principles, rules and regulations are meant to help people and not exploit people. These age-old principles, rules and regulations need not be truths forever. All the principles, rules, regulations and even constitutions have to be reviewed regularly.

Some time our committees and other christian institutions are ruled or governed by some government/semi-government officials, who bring government type of administration into church life, which again gives room for beaurocracy of government style. Church administration has to be based on christian values rather than certain rules, regulations and principles promoted in the past either by westerners or by government officials.

Today we see people well versed with constitutions rather than the Bible. We developed a science called hermeneutics to interpret Bible. I am sure a special kind of hermeneutics to interpret constitution is on the way.

Have we ever stopped to analyze the so-called principles, rules, regulations and constitutions?

Have we made these so-called rules, principles, regulations and constitutions to suppress people or help them? Do these rules, regulations, principles and constitutions reflect the values of Jesus Christ?

People.

A church, religion, an organization exists for people. People are not just people. They are created in the image of God and represent God in our midst. How many times we have humiliated people in the name of rules, regulations and principles? We have not given importance to people. Dr.J.Russel

Chandran once told me when I was Registrar at UTC that *"behind every letter there is a person. Therefore, do not take these letters easy and consider the person behind these letters and do justice to them."*

Look at our Lord Jesus Christ, who very clearly took a stand in favour of "people" rather than principles. "Man is not made for Sabbath". In the name of traditions and principles people have been exploiting ordinary people and denying justice to them. Our Lord has opened the eyes of the people in favour of human beings. Should we follow Jesus or some age-old traditions, principles, rules and regulations?

The story of the Cananite

woman in the Gospels is the best example as to how Jesus opens the eyes of his Jewish disciples and their thinking. To his disciples, she was a woman, she doesn't belong to Jewish community and she does not even belong to the lost sheep of Israel.

But Jesus does not see all those things. Jesus looks at her as just a woman made in the image of God, at that time needing Jesus' healing touch for her daughter.

It's time that we transcend all barriers that deny justice and follow Jesus who gives prime importance to people rather than the dead letter of the law.



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CNI MODERATOR BISHOP VINOD PETER PASSES AWAY

The Most Rev. Vinod Peter, CNI Moderator died in a tragic car accident near Jodhpur on the December 6, 2000 while he was driving from Ajmer after attending a felicitation ceremony. Another colleague bishop Gerald Andrews, bishop of Rajasthan diocese, CNI also died in the same accident. The driver escaped with injuries. The accident took place about 35 kilometers before Jodhpur at about 3.30 in the afternoon. While Bishop Gerald Andrews died on the spot, confirmed reports say that bishop Peter died while the doctors in a private hospital were treating him.

The Most Rev. Vinod A.R. Peter was laid to rest at the Jaripatka christian cemetery on December 8, 2000 after a mammoth funeral service at the All Saints Cathedral, Nagpur. Crowds, including leaders and people from other faiths, gathered to pay their last respects in the cathedral. Several church leaders from the NCCI, CSI, Roman Catholic church and the CNI paid rich tributes to the departed leader.

The present leadership in the Church and Society reveal a major trend of naked power struggle, unhealthy competition and blatant selfishness. Even in the Church there is corruption, desire to lord it over others, unsuitable greed, hunger for, unashamed self promotion etc. Bishop Vinod Peter will always stand as a challenge to this unhealthy trend particularly in the church. He was always reluctant to project himself, made way for others and acted with the interest of the church as supreme in his heart. Another major contribution he has made was his simple life style and friendly disposition. He lived within his means and did not crave to show off his position, power or affluence. No one can accuse him of amassing wealth or indulging in lavish life style. Again in this area he stands as a challenge to all of us, leaders of the church in an emerging climate of consumerism and power

seeking. Another area we ought to take note was his humility, mutual trust, mutual support, caring and sharing at the top leadership of the church. He was above petty politics and did not promote himself or his friends but allowed the democratic process to go on without interference. He might have disappointed some friends whom he could not oblige to achieve their personal plans and goals. Again he stands as a challenge to the common practice of wheeling and dealing and power politics. One can add on a number of areas where he has made his mark. He had a very radical vision of the church and its life, mission and ministry. This great vision came out in many sermons,



speeches and other articulations. Like in the case of many great men and women his vision was far ahead of his times. He was making such valuable contributions to the Church and society and giving the church a special kind of leadership which is very much needed today.

The Vice-President of the NCCI, Bishop Mar Coorrios in his tributes described Vinod Peter as a wonderful leader always committed to values of justice. Even though simple, he was firm in his convictions. In the death of the president, we have lost a courageous and a wonderful leader, he added. Even though for a short stint, bishop Vinod Peter endeared himself with the task ahead and played a crucial and a bold role in responding to the attacks against minorities as the president of the NCCI.

Paying rich tributes to bishop Peter. Bishop Oswald Gracias, the

Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) and archbishop said that his death has created a great void in the national ecumenical scene. Expressing the solidarity of the Roman Catholic Church, Bishop Gracias, called Bishop Peter an affective and a bold leader.

The officers of the CSI synod led by the Most Rev. K.J. Samuel, the Moderator attended his funeral expressing solidarity with the CNI at this hour of crisis. The Moderator eulogised him as a person who was known for his humility and courage of convictions.

Rev. G. Dyvasirvadham, General Secretary, CSI paid rich tributes to the contributions of bishop Peter in the Ecumenical initiatives through his participation in the CNI-CSI-Marthoma Joint Council. He called him a man of vision and a role model to the present church leaders.

The General Secretary of the CNI Dr. V.S. Lal described bishop Peter as an illustrious leader with a rare concern and commitment for consensus in his leadership. He always made sure that all were taken along in the decision-making processes. Dr. Lal added that in the untimely death of bishop Peter, the CNI have lost a love friend, a committed leader and a leader, who was chosen by God.

Hundreds of mourners flocked the Bishop's house to seek a last glimpse of the departed church leader. Many were seen sobbing. They later participated in the funeral and the burial service.

His illustrious career was filled with challenges and opportunities. He stood up to each one of them with fortitude courage and commitment. He introduced several challenging mission initiatives in the CNI and was courageous in speaking his mind on several national issues like globalization, poverty, caste, ecology and religious fundamentalism. He had a sharp media profile on the issues of religious fundamentalism. He was media-friendly and a simple human being.

**Report of the Two-day Seminar on COMMUNICATION AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
(Jointly conducted by C.S.I. Synod Christian Education Dept. & Christian Communication
Service Karnataka) 6-7 October 2000 Sahodaya, K.T.C. Mangalore**

This was a seminar first of its kind in which issues relating to communication and its importance were dealt with. There were 31 participants representing all the three C.S.I. dioceses in Karnataka.

The two-day seminar was inaugurated by Rev. Dr. J.S. Sadananda, the Principal of Karnataka Theological College and the Secretary of KACES on 6th October 2000. In his inaugural address Dr. Sadananda underlined the importance of communication and its implications in Sunday School ministry. He congratulated the organizers. Rev. B.D. Prasada Rao greeted the delegates on behalf of the C.S.I. Synod.

After a short singing session conducted by Rev. Albert Soans of the K.C.C.S. Rev. Dr. Hannibal Cabral conducted his first session on *Communication Process in Sunday School*. The latter part of the morning session was initiated by Rev. Prasada Rao, who presented his views on Jesus as an effective communicator and its implications for our teaching ministry.

In the afternoon session, Rev. Fr. Ivan Madtha, the Director of Canara Communications dealt with the prac-

tical topic of *Serendipity Exercises* wherein he demonstrated the possibility of teaching effectively by using 30 methods of teaching. Many of them were new to the participants. After dinner, the participants presented their talents and skills through cultural programme.

On the 7th of October, the day began with a Bible Study on the aspect of Education from the biblical perspective followed by singing session. Rev. Dr. Cabral continued his session on the subject *Skills in Speech Communication*. Later the participants were sent in small groups for discussion and sharing sessions. Three questions of importance given for discussion were:

1. *How can we become effective teachers and help the present children in their holistic growth?*
2. *What are the communication barriers we face today in Sunday Schools?*
3. *As a teacher reflect on the whole Sunday School ministry in relation to the understanding of a teacher, objective and content?*

After the discussion the whole group assembled to present their re-

port in a general session.

The delegates had a lively session by Dr. Hinda Rayappan who expressed her views through the personal experience of counselling with children and the problems that are prevalent in the present society. Her focus was on the issue of communicating with children.

The seminar came to an end with the local Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. C.L. Furtado's words of appreciation to the C.S.I. Synod and K.C.C.S. for their initiative in helping the Sunday School teachers in remoulding, reviving their communication expertise. All the participants once again rededicated their lives to their call for the ministry among children.

We appreciate the C.S.I. Synod Christian Education Department for providing the financial assistance. We are grateful to Dr. J.S. Sadananda, Secretary, KACES for allowing us to use Sahodaya to conduct our seminar and all the facilities. We place on record our appreciation of the bishop of Karnataka Southern Diocese, Rt. Rev. Dr. C.L. Furtado for his support and blessings.

(Rev. Dr. H. Cabral),
Director, K.C.C.S.



FAITH AND SOCIAL ACTION CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

In struggle...

All over India an aberrant state of human dignity is witnessed in different forms. It is shattered in the name of caste, distorted with respect to faiths, discriminated in the name of gender and so on; but the only way that is seen everywhere irrespective of the reasons mentioned is the economic disparity....

Five o' clock in the evening while conversing with the members of the community in one of the remote villages, a slight drizzle started. As we looked for shelter somewhere the villagers insisted on us leaving the place immediately! Astonished by this unusual behavior of the village community we made queries; we were informed that as it rained further the soil would become sticky and slippery and no vehicle could ever move. Knowing that we had a train to catch the next morning at Gooty to travel further, the concerned

villagers insisted upon us leaving the place immediately instead of providing shelter from the rain.

This is in

Molagavalli Kottala; Aloor Taluk of Kurnool District in Andhra Pradesh, located 60 km away from Guntakal, Divisional Head Quarters of CSI Rayalasema Diocese which is 105 km away from Kurnool, the revenue headquarters of the district. The approach road to this village is covered with black



The parched earth

cotton soil and is broad enough only for a bullock cart to go. The nearest road where buses are seen is about 5 km away and the buses ply there only twice a day. The railway station is about 8 kms away and people have no other option but to walk, carrying firewood, which is the main source of survival.

M. Kottala, with a history of more than 100 years, is a village with only dalits out of whom 70 percent are christians. Every family owns a piece of land which was bought and given to them by the missionaries. Unfortunately it is rain fed and can be productive only on certain sea-

sons. As the families grew over a period of time the *per capita* ownership of land has become too small for any reasonable cultivation even during the season. Dry crops can be tried but one doesn't generally think of changing the cropping pattern there due to the soil condition.

There is poverty, unemployment, lack of opportunity for education; but the most important problem of this village is - **drinking water**. Digging bore wells is not of any help and the water drawn within 8 km radius of M. Kottala is bitter to taste; even animals cannot drink. Minimum of one person in a family is compulsorily assigned specifically to fetch water, walking 8 km up and 8 km down every day from the near-by village. To live and cope within this unsupportive environment itself is beyond anyone's comprehension.

Unfortunately both government and NGOs overlooked this village. No Government programme has been implemented in the past 50 years except providing a pipeline connection to the village from a pump house, about 60 km. away. Due to poor managerial

(contd...p.11)

In Faith... ..with People
CSI Diaconal Ministry



CSI Campaign for the Girl Child



Coimbatore
29th June 2000



Kanyakumari
21st Sep 2000



Trichy-Tanjore
4th Oct 2000



Dornakal
24th Oct 2000

Commitment of the Dioceses



East Kerala
16th & 17th Nov 2000



Karnataka Southern
29th Oct 2000

"An Overwhelming Response from the Diocese...." *Mrs. Satyakumari Abraham, President, Women's Fellowship, Nandyal.*



South Kerala, Nov. 2000

"The ten identified congregations have pledged to give one lakh and five thousand at the launch of the Diocesan campaign, 24th Oct. 2000"

Mrs. Nalini Sugandhar, President Women's Fellowship, Medak

"We hope to raise a sum of two lakhs for the year 2000-2001 towards the welfare of the Girl child"

*Mrs. Bharathy Fredericks
President, Women's Fellowship, Rayalaseema.*

Support CSI Campaign for the Girl child. contribute to the CSI Life Support Fund

conditions the scheme could not be implemented successfully; hence the village still goes without water.

Christian missionaries constructed a tank (Vakereni) more than 100 years ago to store rain-water and to supply to the village after the rainy season too. The soil had eroded over a period of time and silted the tank.

The people of M. Kottala could not claim their basic right because they are unorganized; unaware of the socio economic and political conditions of the country and so are ignorant of the legal and constitutional provisions also.

The CSI Diaconal Ministry on a journey...in struggle...with people has identified its place

with the people of M. Kottala. As part of its mission the CSI



Reconstructing the Vakereni Diaconal Ministry has joined hands with these courageous people to explore various possibilities of regaining their lost dignity. To begin with, the CSI DM is involved in reconstructing the Vakereni, which is not a mere act of construction but a conscious attempt to knit the people at every stage.

In an attempt to further emancipate the people of M. Kottala the Diaconal ministry has also been involved in organizing people, forming *sangams* and initiating small savings groups.

The journey has begun. The problem is immense. And our intervention is too small. But we are together with the people of M. Kottala in their struggles to restore their dignity. The day is not far off when they would start believing in their collective strength to fight against all odds.

And the journey goes on...

-Simpson Cornelius
Coordinator (Projects)

A Tribute

Mrs. Lalitha Jeyaraj, affectionately known as "*Lalitha Akka*" passed away on the evening of December 12, 2000. As the Project Coordinator for "Services - Women's Education, Empowerment and Transformation" of Coimbatore Diocese, she was a pillar of strength and support to many distressed women in the Diocese.

Lalitha worked tirelessly for nearly 30 years organizing several movements, particularly forming a strong women's movement against female foeticide and infanticide in the Region of Salem and Dharmapuri, evolving a programme for the commercial sex workers in the Region, staunchly fighting against the evil of early marriage and violence against women. Her

most recent contribution was the Movement for 'Rural

Women's Rights' where she enrolled a thousand women in a record of three months time.



Mrs. Lalitha Jeyaraj

Though 3 years ago Lalitha lost her husband Jeyaraj and in another few months her parents, yet she remained stoic and continued her mission with a strong will.

Then cancer struck; Undeterred she faced the challenge with a smile looking up in courage and faith to the Lord.

Till the very last moment of her life she continued to live for others.

Lalitha leaves behind her only son Samuel, 9 years, now in the care of relatives. Hundreds mourn the death of Mrs. Lalitha Jeyaraj; the void can never be filled; yet we join along with them to praise God for her life and witness in the Church of South India.

Jacob Belly, Coordinator,
CSI DM North Tamil Nadu
Region

VALUE EDUCATION IN THE CONTEXT OF CHANGING SOCIAL REALITIES:

A study based on value education seminar in East Kerala Diocese

Dr.Abraham Daniel, Henry Baker College, Melukavumattom.

All civilized societies have recognized education as a reforming and transforming force. While we hopefully welcome the new age of technological advancement, there is an equally alarming deterioration of educational and moral standards. This resulted in an imbalance between the quality in terms of values and the quantity of education. When there is a matchless increase in the quantity of educational input, a corresponding increase in quality is not assured. This has been the bane of our present day educational system. "Ours is a world of nuclear giants

and ethical infants", said General Omar Bradley. The apprehensions of the whole human race is reflected in this statement. In the mad race for achieving power and pecuniary benefits, and thereby reaching the summit of fame, the ethical and moral values, the very foundation of education we built up through ages are being eroded.

The imminent need therefore, is to strengthen the foundation of education. This understanding and vision has been the motivation behind organising a seminar on value education.

The seminar was organised, under the auspices of the Sunday school and christian education department of the diocese, on 18th Sep. 2000. Rev. P.J. Joseph, the treasurer and sunday school sec-

retary of the diocese was instrumental in organising the programme. Rev.E.J.Daniel, manager of CSI schools presided. Very Rev.P.D.John, former treasurer and manager of schools of the diocese inaugurated the session. More than a hundred teachers from different institutions of the diocese irrespective of religious differences participated in the seminar. Dr.George



Dr.George Samuel addressing the Value education seminar

Samuel, visiting professor and Advisor to California University Nuclear Medicine Dept. and Director of Value Education Centre Tiruvalla, unveiled his rich experiences during the exposition of the subject.

Education must open the springs of life, said the very Rev.P.D.John. It is to be the great pastoral ministry and mission of the church. Our aim must be to bring out the hidden values in each individual. In the face of the explosion of knowledge as never before and the challenge of fundamentalism, it is the bounden responsibility of christian educators to open the 'springs', either hidden or unnoticed and channel them out properly; so that these shall flow to all people and give them life abundant.

Dr. George Samuel emphasized the humanistic content of education. Our use of science and technology are to be guided by human values. Human intellect alone can never help to sustain values. If the head is programmed by the heart our decisions and choices will be value laden. When our thinking is guided by the head alone, character formation, the chief objective of

education is not guaranteed it is rather pushed to the background. From where should the values emanate? Values should spring out from the teacher, so that the child would be able to imitate them. 'Values are caught rather than taught'.

Teachers must be living examples. Meanings are in people in 'what we are,' what we do, and what we speak'. The teacher must be able to communicate to the student what he stands for through his own life.

Picking up examples from his own life experiences Dr.George Samuel explained clearly what happened through us was more important than what happened to us. Making possible the seemingly impossible is to be the goal set by a teacher. A teacher with christian vision and mission can turn problems into projects, tragedies into triumphs and the worst into the best. Then circumstances never affect our commitment. All this depends on how we view things. The self imposed line of limitations brings down the possibilities before us.

Never allow this negative force to dominate us. When we subject our faith to the test of experience we can raise the line of limitations. By developing an attitude of positive thinking we can turn disappointments into God's veiled love's appointments. Therefore crises in life will never make us bitter but will help to make us better. Our thoughts reflect our acts. Values are the sum total of our thoughts and acts.

In a fast changing world where diverse forces are acting against ethical and moral values this must be, for us, a moment of introspection. Hence it is better to define some of the determinants of the basic virtues educators should adhere to.

1. Punctuality:

By observing this very common, but rarely observed trait one shows high esteem for other people and their time.

2. Availability:

By making us available through

our presence and practice we offer our human resource to the organization to which we belong.

3. Orderliness:

It is a very essential quality for greater efficiency.

4. Sacrifice:

The love expressed through sacrifice and devotion is the crown of all christian values. It is the source from which all values emanate. Sacrifice is the virtue of giving up, for a greater purpose.

To conclude education is for man's overall development but not for his enslavement. "Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern but impossible to enslave", said Lord Brougham. According to one of the reports of UNESCO, the four pillars of education are:

"Learning to know

Learning to do

Learning to live together

and Learning to be".

Values convert learning and knowledge into wisdom. They act as a bulwark of intellect, from being misused for inhuman purposes. In a world of unfulfilled desires, it is the responsibility of educators to help people live a fulfilled life. We dream of flowers that grow in gloom. If we are now in a season of gloom and solitude we can convert them to strength and hopefulness. American president F.D. Roosevelt remarked, "*we can not always build the future of our youth; but we can build the youth for the future*". The present attempts for value education would definitely help building our youth for the future. Let this be the first step. Let all our educational endeavors be motivated by this supreme objective, and our institutions the beacons of hope.

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THE BACK-STAGE PLAYERS

H. Ravilochanan*



If an organization is to survive, grow and remain prosperous, it must adapt to the demands of the environment. Since these demands are constantly changing, the governing principles of organizations must also reflect this change.

The Church of South India which was inaugurated on September 27, 1947, has undergone tremendous changes over the years. As per the governing principles of the church (to quote the CSI constitution) "the CSI is formed by a combination of different elements each bringing its contribution to the whole and not by the absorption of any one by any other". It's a typical example of "SYNETICS" derived from a Greek word which means 'fitting together of diverse elements'. This is exactly what the CSI has been doing - to bring together divided members of Christ's body into one organization (*constitution page 3*). Another reason for our growth can be attributed to the *Inter-personal* relationship that is maintained among the various bodies that constitute the CSI. The synod represents the hub around which the other dioceses revolve. There is no dearth of interaction between the dioceses

and the synod. But how much of an interaction is there between the various dioceses? They are more or less compartmentalized from one another.

But my primary focus, apart from the developing changes that have taken place, is on something else. We all know that there are different categories of church workers in the dioceses like clergy, women workers, youth, evangelists etc. but there is yet another category of church workers who are often sidelined and sometimes never even thought of. But they are the people in the organization who really matter but for whom, the activities would come to a standstill. They are none other than the *administrative staff* who always remain at the backstage and pull the strings for coordinating and synchronizing the activities on the stage. They are part and parcel of the organization whom you just can't do without. (Wherever the word 'organization' is mentioned it refers to the diocese).

Now having realized that the administrative staff are a class by themselves, the next step is to find out how best can we tap their services to the maximum. There are various methods on how to go about it:

a) CREATING A SECOND LINE OF MANAGEMENT:

This means preparing and training people in the various

fields of administration to take up key positions in the organization when such posts fall vacant due to death, retirement or resignation. This process has its own merits and advantages.

i. Unlike the elected posts which are for a specified period, the administrative staff are appointed on a permanent basis in the different niches in the hierarchy of the organization who serve till they attain superannuation. When such vacancies occur, there is no need to go in search for a suitable replacement since there are already trained people within the organization to fill the vacancy who are well versed with the nature of the job and conversant with the environment.

ii. Avenues for promotions are very rare in the organizational hierarchy of the dioceses.

iii. The employees equip themselves with the necessary qualification / eligibility for any openings in the organization.

A general awareness has to be created about the usefulness and importance of the administrative staff who are the facilitators for the smooth functioning of any organization. They are like the wheels and bolts behind the dial of a clock without which the clock can not show the right time!

iv. The staff feel that their long years of loyal and faithful service rendered to the organi-

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zation has been recognized and their overall morale is boosted when such vacancies are filled up by eligible people within the organization.

b) TRAINING

Training is a must for everyone and it is a continuous process. It helps the employees to acquire the latest concepts of management not only in the higher level, but also in the middle and lower levels. Training also plays a key factor for the development of Human Resources.

c) JOB ROTATION

In this system, the staff are made to work in the various sections of the office for short periods similar to the system followed in the banks. This process has its own merits:

i. It breaks the monotony of doing the same work day in and day out.

ii. The staff learn something new in other sections and have a general idea of the working of the organization.

iii. The smooth functioning

of the office will in no way be hindered due to any absentism.

d) DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS

The staff could be given training in areas where they lack skills. For example, training in communication, auditing, accounting, typewriting and shorthand, correspondence, reception, group dynamism, time management and computers.

SUGGESTION:

Very often there are meetings convened for the different categories of church workers at the synod level. Why not the synod convene a meeting at least once a year for the administrative staff of the various dioceses or conduct a workshop for them which will bring them closer together and enable them to know more about the functioning of their neighboring dioceses. Eminent management consultants could be invited to give guest lectures and act as resource persons

e) IN GENERAL:

The administrative staff should not be allowed to reach

a point of saturation before retirement. They should be motivated to bring out everything in them and it is the responsibility of the organization to make them feel that they are still 'needed' Very often the sincere efforts of the staff goes unnoticed. They are made to do the spadework and invariably the credit is taken by someone else.

People need to be aware that the administrative staff are not secondary and they are the facilitators for the smooth functioning of any organization.

CONCLUSION:

The greatest motivating factor for any worker in an organization is not an attractive pay package with all the perks and other benefits - but a simple pat on the back with a few words of encouragement and appreciation. This positive attitude of the organization induces in them a sense of belonging, a sense of importance and above all that their output of work has been recognized! For they are in fact the unsung heroes of any organization. ❁

A POINT TO PONDER

There's a story called "The Other Wise Man" by Henry van Dyke. It's about a fourth person who is supposed to accompany the other three wise men on their journey to search for the newborn King. The name of the person is Artaban.

As Artaban prepares for the journey, he takes with him a bag of precious stones to give to the baby King.

On his way to join the other three wise men, Artaban stops to help a poor person. The delay is just enough to make him miss his rendezvous with the others. Artaban never does catch up with them. He constantly runs into people who need help. And he always stops to help them. Eventually, Artaban gives away all his precious

stones.

But the story doesn't end here.

Thirty years later Artaban is in Jerusalem. The city is buzzing with excitement. Authorities are about to execute a criminal. When Artaban sees the criminal, his heart skips a beat.

His enquiries reveal this is the King of Kings for whom he has been searching all his life. Artaban is heartbroken at what he sees.

He is even more heartbroken when he sees he can do nothing to help the King.

Then something remarkable happens. Artaban hears the King's voice say to him: "Don't be brokenhearted, Artaban. You've been helping me all your life. When I was hungry, you gave me food. When I was

thirsty, you gave me drink. When I was naked, you clothed me. When I was a stranger, you took me in." The story of Artaban is the story of many people in our world... A young woman who dreams of a career but sacrifices it all for her family, a young ambitious man whose dreams of climbing up the social ladder are all shattered because he chooses to be honest and faithful.....

And the story of "The Other Wise Man" reminds us that our gift is far more precious than those of the other three wise men.

Our gift is not a one-time gift of gold, frankincense, or myrrh. It's a full-time gift of love and service.

Please note this is not the website address of the CSI which is <csisynod.org> nor its E-mail address which is <csi.vsnl.com> but only the page identification of the department of communication of the CSI synod.

History was made on Saturday 9th December, 2000 when the Festival Concerts series got well under way at the Jubilee Hall of the CSI Centre. One by one people started coming in and by the time the concert started the

hall was full of people in colorful festive attire with eager expectation of this new venture that the CSI was launching into. Mr. Frederick William the Treasurer of the CSI inaugurated it by lighting the traditional *kutthuvillaku*. The General Secretary in his message.

Several outstanding choirs of the city sang wonderfully to the delight of the people who had gathered. The following choirs participated: *Shamas, Jasper Gems, Adaikalanathar Church choir, Lutheran men's voice, Cultural Acapella singers, Stella Maris choir, Immanuel Musical Association of Thanjavur and the synod choir*. The highlight of the program was the gift of a Christmas Tree by Mr. Mohanakumar of Avadi, a committed churchman and

Headmaster of the Govt. Higher Secondary School at Kundrathur. The tree came to



Mr. Mohanakumar (with family) who gifted the christmas tree to the synod family

life with decorations at the expert hands of our staff Deena and Gnanam.

Traditionally the church has patronized arts and artists and has been able to inspire the creation of immortal works of great artists and musicians in the fields of art, architecture, sculpture and music which continue to gladden the hearts and enrich the lives of mankind to this day.

Keeping with this glorious tradition the Church of South India launched this Festival Concerts to be held every quarter December, March/April, June/July and September coinciding with the major festivals of the church, namely, the incarnation, resurrection, Pentecost (church) and life (CSI Anniversary).

White it is a fact that old traditional carols have a charm of their own and have a nostalgic value and delight our hearts to this day, each generation owes it to itself to contribute its own gifts to the Word made human. A new song of nativity in Tamil in adoration of the Word made human was dedicated on this occasion. We believe that this would be a worthy gift of our generation to God Almighty. We



The Synod choir dedicating a new song to the Word made human

also hope that it would contribute to the enhancement of spirituality of our generation.

ENCOUNTER U.K. 2000.

The Interchange Department of the Church Mission Society organised a three week Encounter United Kingdom Programme for Youth leaders from the different countries in Asia from 1st to 23rd of October, 2000. Nine youngsters, two each from the Church of South India, Church of North India, Church of Bangladesh and Church of Sri Lanka and one from China participated.

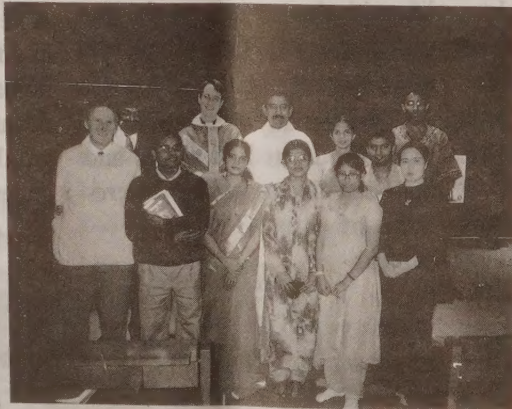
The visit was intended to allow the Asian youth to have a bird's eye view of the ecclesial life of the West, particularly in London. It was also an opportunity for them to understand their common Asian-ness which would enable them to transcend boundaries, cultural and geographic in their understanding of the Church. It was a privilege for me to be the facilitator of the group. Mr. John Prude, CMS Area Coordinator, Southwark Diocese of the Church of England, co-ordinated the group's programme. Mr. Leslie Nathaniel, Interchange Advisor of the CMS organised this programme ably assisted by Jeremy Woodham, Margaret Mukasa and Sarah.

The team participated in the worship services in different churches closely analysing the life of the church in minute detail. It was a rare privilege for me to preach the Word at the St. Ann's Church, Earlsfield, the St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Queens Road, Peckham and at the mid week Holy Communion service at the Partnership House. It was a joy for us participating in the worship at the All Saints Church Battersea Park where Canon Ivor Smith Cameron is ministering.

The team also visited various schools in London to have a preview of the education system of the West. Noteworthy among the schools we visited were the Blue Coat School, Blackheath, the St. Bede's School, Red Hill and the St. Mary's Primary School, Peckham. At the St. Bede's School, I was asked to lead a seminar for the 10th class students on religious pluralism

with special reference to hinduism.

The group also had opportunities to interact with organisations working with the young people. PECAN for instance, works among the unemployed and displaced youth helping them to find a footing, decent wages and a shelter. XLP and YFC do a wonderful ministry in the campuses specially in the area of stress counselling. The opportunity to visit a foyer where homeless youngsters are given shelter and career guidance till they settle down on their own was a great experience of learning. Noteworthy among the various meetings the group had included were with the Encounter Groups. These were young people from London who had spent three weeks to six months on Exposure Programmes in various countries in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and South America. Relating to them as representatives in the context to which they were exposed was



an enriching experience. It was a meeting of the mindsets and perspectives of the East and the West. The group also had a very enriching meeting with the renowned Bishop Colin Buckanon of Woolrich and John Martin of CMS which gave them deep insights about the life and struggles of the Church of England. The members of the group also participated in bible study groups conducted in the homes, Alpha course and meetings of youth fellowships.

One of the aspects the group noticed was the decreasing number of worshippers in comparatively larger churches.

They also visited places like Copleston where a huge church now holds a nursery school, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, a career guidance and counselling centre and even a basket ball court in the space used earlier for worship. A small area is set apart for the routine worship services.

The accommodation for the members of the team was arranged with various families so that they could get a first hand impression about family life in London lest a particular experience be generalised. Dinner meetings were organised with different families.

Of course there was a lot of sight seeing too. The various cathedrals included the St. Paul's, Southwark and Guildford, Millennium Dome, Madame Toussead's Museum, the Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, the Westminster Abbey, the Parliament House, the Lambeth Palace, the London Bridge, the Tower Bridge, the Shakespearean Globe theatre, the Tower of London, the various museums, the cruise over the River Thames, the London Eye etc. And the walks across the streets of London were life time experiences for the entire group.

The encounter programme left the Asian youth with quite a lot to ponder upon. Crucial among the issues they identified were the disillusionment of the youth with the organised church and disintegration in the family values and systems. This they related as memories for the future - realities they would also confront in the days to come unless on guard.

The meeting of the East and the West had lots to offer to both sides. The CMS and Leslie Nathaniel would indeed want to make this an ongoing process rather than a one time programme. Leslie and Julie also proved to be wonderful hosts.

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